



# The TRUMPET

A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal | Summer 2015

## Celebrating Safely with FIREWORKS

New Dog, New Blog ♦ 9 Hot Home Safety Tips ♦ Summer Grilling  
K-9s Sniffing Out Arson ♦ Kansas Search & Rescue ♦ Chlorine Dangers

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### HOT OSFM NEWS

Fire Dog with a Blog 3

### BY THE NUMBERS

3

### FEATURE

Safety with Fireworks 4

Infographic: Fireworks injuries in 2014 5

### PREVENTION

Don't get burned when grilling 6

9 Hot Home Safety Tips 7

### INVESTIGATION

Arson K9s 8

Don't be an arson victim 9

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Search and Rescue 10

Chlorine Dangers 11

### LAST BUT NOT LEAST

NFIRS quarterly stats 12

## FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

### Something to celebrate!

It has been another long and challenging legislative session. Yet even with the revenue shortfall and budget challenges, you should not see any reduction of services in the next two years from our office. Our office will be contributing \$1 million from our fee fund to the state general fund each year for the next two years to help with the revenue shortfall but our overall budget for those two years remains intact and we project that the fee fund will continue to sufficiently enable our office to provide the same level of service.



This legislative session was actually very positive for our office and the search and rescue program for the state. House Bill 2097 passed the legislature and was signed by Governor Brownback, giving our office the authority over the search and rescue program for the state. [Read all about it on Page 10.](#) This change in the search and rescue program was nearly a three-year process and was initiated by the search and rescue groups in order to (a) identify a constant funding source for the program and, even more importantly, (b) to be able to expand and improve the current program in working towards state and federal certifications.

The entire fire service community in the state was very supportive of the change and I want to thank everyone for their support of the initiative. It was definitely a major group effort by all. Not only did our office receive the added responsibility but even in these extremely tight fiscal times the legislature gave its full support to the program by appropriating \$200,000 for positions, training, and equipment for the first year and \$250,000 for the second year. If you have an opportunity, please be sure to thank your local Representative and Senator for their support.

I believe there is a bright future ahead for not only our office but for all the state fire service groups. Our office is here to help and serve the citizens of the state and all of the fire service community to the best of our abilities. We look forward not only toward continuing, but also to building and improving the communication and cooperation between our office and all the fire service groups and associations across the state.

**Doug Jorgensen**  
Kansas State Fire Marshal

### STAY CONNECTED





## HOT NEWS



### Blaze, new Fire Safety Dog, begins blogging

*Get helpful fire safety tips at [PawsforPrevention.org](http://PawsforPrevention.org)*

Blaze, our new fire dog mascot, has much to howl about when it comes to fire safety – especially for kids. To help the kids of Kansas, plus parents and teachers, better understand the importance of fire safety and to always have a resource for information on how to fireproof homes and schools, Blaze has started his own “Paws for Prevention” blog at [PawsforPrevention.org](http://PawsforPrevention.org).



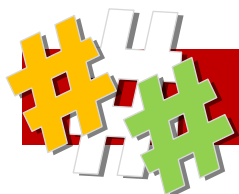
On his blog, Blaze aims to:

- Provide fun and readable information to children, plus activities that would promote fire safety
- Reach teachers, school administrators and childcare centers to help promote fire safety to students
- Communicate with fire departments across the state to help them promote safety in their communities



### Blaze promotes fire safety for seniors too!

Blaze also worked with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to create a Fire Safety video for seniors! Please watch and share [this video!](#)



## BY THE NUMBERS

Electrical failure or malfunction was involved in an estimated annual average of **47,820** reported home fires from 2007-2011 in the U.S.

In Kansas, from 2010-2014, there were **38** fire service injuries caused by intentionally set fires.

From 2010-2014, there were **6,550** “intentional” fires in Kansas, resulting in 13 civilian fatalities.

Bedrooms are the **#2** most common place where a fire starts in structure fires. *Why?* Look for one reason in this issue.

### OUR MISSION

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials by fostering a safe environment through education, inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, hazardous material incident mitigation, data collection, and by acting as a liaison to the Kansas Fire Service.

All of the efforts of the Office are designed to reduce the deaths, injuries and property losses of Kansans.

## THE TRUMPET



### EDITOR

Kevin Doel  
Public Information Officer  
[kevin.doel@ksfm.ks.gov](mailto:kevin.doel@ksfm.ks.gov)  
785-296-3403

### SUBMISSIONS

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal Trumpet or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos, or other information, please contact [Kevin Doel](#). Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email. All materials are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

### CONTACT US

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
700 SW Jackson, Suite 600  
Topeka, KS 66603-3714  
785-296-3401



# 18 Tips to Be Safe with Fireworks!

1. Always read and follow label instructions.
2. Always purchase high quality fireworks from a reliable, legitimate source.
3. Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
4. Never give fireworks to small children.
5. Adults should always supervise use of fireworks by older children.
6. Always wear eye protection when lighting fireworks.
7. Never ignite fireworks indoors. Make sure your outdoor area is safe for firework use.
8. Never point or throw fireworks at a person, building, or animal.
9. Have a source of water handy, in case of fire.
10. Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
11. Light only one firework at a time.
12. Never attempt to re-light malfunctioning fireworks.
13. When lighting fireworks, never position any part of your body over them.
14. Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
15. Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
16. Never experiment with home-made fireworks. They are dangerous and illegal.
17. Bottle rockets and other skyrockets that are mounted on a stick or wire are illegal.
18. It is illegal to shoot fireworks on or under a vehicle, on any public roadway, within 50 feet of a firework stand or where fireworks are stored, and gas stations or any place liquid gas – including propane – is stored.



# KANSAS FIREWORKS INJURIES IN 2014

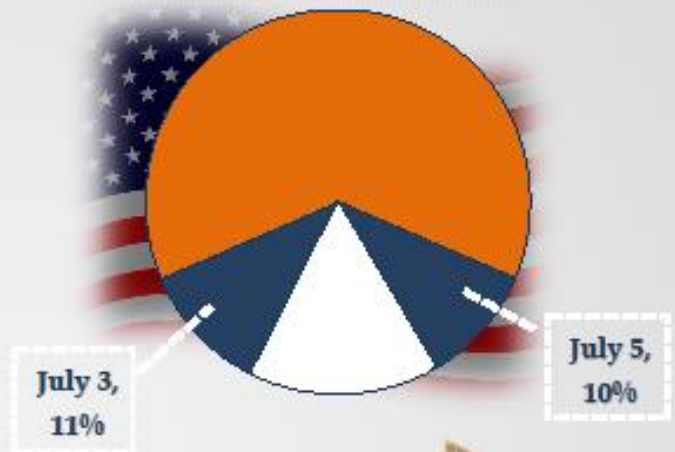
45% of hospitals in Kansas completed voluntary surveys of fireworks injuries for a total of 158 injuries. While no deaths occurred in 2014, hospitals reported 10 instances of traumatic amputation, a 100% increase over 2013. Three victims suffered hearing loss.

## Type of Firework Involved

Public Display Fireworks	4
Bottle Rocket	5
Homemade	8
Sparkler	12
Other Type	14
Roman Candle	16
Novelty	18
Unknown	20
Firecracker	28
Shooting Type	33



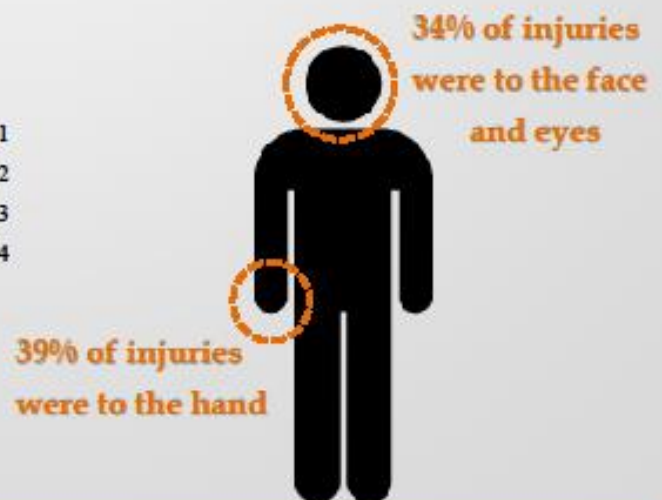
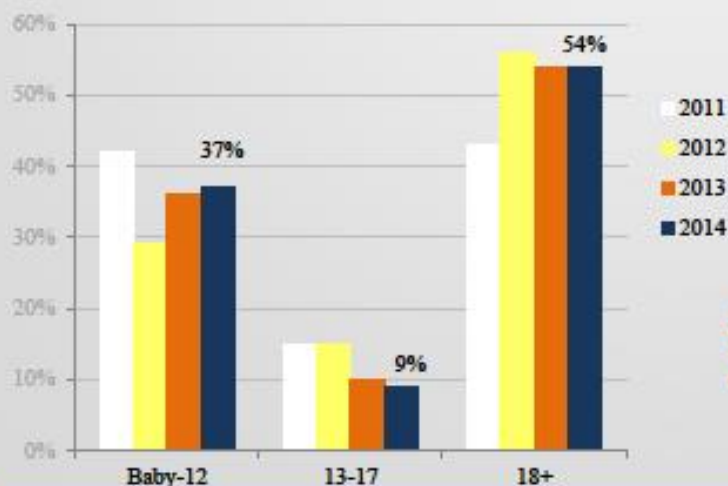
47% of injuries occurred on July 4



99 males and 58 females were injured in 2014. Injuries to men comprised 65% of injuries, down from 75% of all injuries in 2013.



## Percentage of Injuries by Age Group



Statistics from the Office of the State Fire Marshal current as of 1/16/2015. Visit [KFSM.KS.GOV](http://KFSM.KS.GOV) for more.



## PREVENTION

### Don't Get Burned When Grilling

By Scott Murray, OSFM Fire Protection Specialist

The summer grilling season is upon us! Having a barbecue should be a safe and fun experience for everyone. To prevent injuries or damage to property, please take the following precautions:

#### Maintenance and Safety First

- Ensure that your barbecue is sound and in good working order.
- Make sure the cooking site for the barbecue is flat and is away from sheds, fences, overhanging branches and utility lines.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves.
- Never use a barbecue indoors or in tents. This is a dangerous fire hazard and can cause high levels of carbon monoxide.
- Keep children and outdoor games away from the cooking area. Never leave a barbecue unattended.
- Light barbecues with a long match or mechanical lighter designed for lighting barbecues. Keep all matches, lighters and barbecue lighters out of the reach of children.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames
- Allow the barbecue to cool before attempting to move it.

#### Charcoal Briquette Barbecues

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Use only sufficient charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue to a depth of about 2 inches. Store extra charcoal in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid to keep it dry. Wet charcoal can spontaneously combust and start a fire.

- Use only recognized charcoal starter fluid. Use lighter fluid on cold briquettes only and use the minimum quantity necessary to start the charcoal. Adding fluid to burning or hot coals can cause a flash fire and result in serious burn injuries.
- When removing the ashes from the barbecue, make sure they are cool or put them into a non-flammable container such as a metal bucket. Water may be added to the cool

ashes, remembering to stay back, away from potential hot steam. Empty spent ashes onto bare garden soil—do not put ashes into a garbage can or paper bag. House fires have been caused by hot ashes which later ignited when left on a deck or porch.

#### Gas Barbecues

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions. To check the gas cylinder or pipe for leaks, brush soapy water around all joints and watch for bubbles. If you find a leaky joint, try to tighten, but do not over-tighten. If ever in doubt about the integrity of your gas cylinder, have it tested.
- Open the barbecue lid before turning on the gas or lighting.
- When you have finished cooking with a gas barbecue, turn off the gas cylinder.
- Change gas cylinders in the open air, not in a confined space. Avoid storing gas cylinders indoors and never in basements.

Following these tips can help ensure you have a fun and safe barbecue.



# 9

## HOT Home Safety Tips

By Jason Lady, OSFM Fire Protection Specialist



*Ah! Summer has arrived!*

No more homework, the smell of grilled food in the air, bon fires, spending time together outdoors, and the first official

day of summer. The month of June marks many things, but what many don't realize is that it also marks **National Home Safety Month**.

### HARD FACTS:

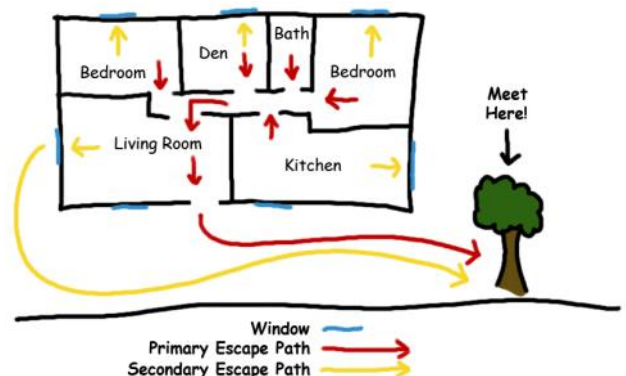
There are 86,400 seconds in a day, and according to statistics provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire departments respond to a house fire every 85 seconds, or approximately 1,000 house fires per day. Home fires kill an average of seven people per day and account for \$228 in damage every second. Outdoor grilling fires account for approximately 8,600 fires a year and wildland fires at family dwellings around 33,400 annually.



## PREVENTION

### 9 TOP TIPS FOR HOME FIRE SAFETY

1. Check your Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms: Working alarms reduce chances of dying by nearly 50%. Test monthly, 10 lithium batteries reduce battery changes or inoperative detectors, place smoke alarms in each bedroom, smoke & carbon monoxide outside each sleeping area, & every level of your home.
2. Create a Home Fire Safety Plan: Preparedness is Key! Develop, discuss and practice it together for evacuation, post it somewhere conspicuous, post emergency numbers 9-1-1 and contact list. Always have 2 ways out!
3. Teach how to respond to smoke alarms, G-E-T low and G-E-T out!
4. Talk to your children about the dangers of matches, lighters, and candles. Blow out candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
5. Maintain fire extinguishers on every level of home!
6. Never leave food unattended while cooking and turn off burners when done!
7. Electrical Safety: Cover unused outlets with plugs, keep fixtures and bulbs away from flammable items, check electrical cord regularly don't use extension cords for permanent use.
8. Grilling and Outdoors Fires: Keep away from combustibles, maintain a 3-foot safe zone around it, always keep attended, clean grill after use, place coals in metal container once cooled, and make sure campfires are out completely!
9. Burning: Check with local jurisdiction, have a permit, watch weather/wind conditions, never leave unattended, maintain proper equipment to control.



## INVESTIGATION

### Accelerant Detection Canines: Sniffing Out Arson

During the week of May 3-9, our office joined other agencies in the Kansas Fire Service to recognize Arson Awareness Week in our state. Governor Sam Brownback signed a Proclamation recognizing Arson Awareness Week in Kansas for the purpose of increasing awareness and understanding of one of the most dangerous and costly threats to people and property – arson.

The theme for this year's Arson Awareness Week was "Accelerant Detection Canines — Sniffing Out Arson." An accelerant detection canine, such as the dogs used by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and a few larger fire departments in Kansas, saves time and money during arson investigations. When an arson dog is used as part of an investigation, there are fewer but more accurate evidence samples, which reduce expenditures at the lab and, ultimately, speed up investigations and provide a higher conviction rate.

According to the USFA, during 2010-2012, an estimated 17,400 intentionally set fires in residential buildings were reported to U.S. fire departments each year, resulting in 275 civilian deaths, 800 civilian injuries, and \$513 million in property loss. For

this same time period, an estimated 9,000 intentionally set fires occurred in nonresidential buildings each year resulting in \$282 million in property loss.

In Kansas, from 2010-2014, there were 6,550 "intentional" fires, including a significant number of grass fires, resulting in 13 civilian fatalities, 55 civilian injuries, 38 fire service injuries, and \$38 million total property loss.



L-R Brewster with Rusty Vollintine Jr. (Topeka Fire), Robert Renton, (IAAI Kansas Chapter President), Alex Koenen (EFI Global), Governor Sam Brownback, Fire Marshal Doug Jorgenson, Todd Kirkoff (IAAI Kansas Chapter Vice President), Rose Rozmiarek (OSFM Chief of Investigations) with Tana

Arson is defined as the malicious burning of another's occupied home or property. This type of illegal activity robs communities of valuable assets, lives and property. It can devastate a community, resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue and a decrease in property values.

### ARSONIST MOTIVATIONS

- **Curiosity** - A misuse of fire that is most often associated with juveniles.
- **Vandalism** – Malicious mischief that may be associated with boredom, peer pressure, or even gang activity.
- **Concealing another crime** – Misuse of fire used to mask another crime such as burglary, larceny or murder.
- **Excitement** – Most of these fires are nuisance fires but can escalate to home fires.
- **Revenge** – The setting of a fire in retaliation for an actual or perceived injustice.
- **Insurance fraud/arson for profit** – A criminal method of obtaining money from a fire loss policy.





## Don't Become an Arson Victim!

- ◆ Illuminate the exterior and entrances of your home
- ◆ Clear obstructions such as bushes or shrubbery
- ◆ Keep doors and windows locked
- ◆ Clean around the home including raking leaves and removing trash
- ◆ Secure abandoned and vacant homes.

For more arson prevention tips, visit the OSFM website: [FireMarshal.ks.gov](http://FireMarshal.ks.gov).

## What's News in Safe Cigarette Testing?



In 2010, statutes were passed stating that before cigarettes were to be sold in Kansas they must meet a performance standard and be tested and certified with our

Office. According to the Statute, the testing shall be conducted in accordance with the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard:

- Testing shall be conducted on 10 layers of filter paper
- No more than 25% of the cigarettes test-

ed in a test trial in accordance with this section shall exhibit full-length burns. Forty replicate tests shall comprise a complete test trial for each cigarette tested.

Cigarette manufacturers must renew their certification every three years and also pass the testing within the last year before renewal.

Our office is now doing our own testing through an approved private lab to ensure all products on the shelf meet the ASTM standard. Our staff has just sent our first shipment of 15 brands to be tested at the lab.

Each and every quarter a new set of cigarette brands will be sent to be tested.

**FIRE FACT!** Why are bedrooms the #2 most common places that home fires start (behind the kitchen)? A big reason is bedrooms are a "safe base" for kids to play with things they shouldn't play with! For more interesting fire facts, check our Twitter (@ksfiremarshal) every Friday for #FireFactFriday.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### OSFM Now Coordinating Agency for Search & Rescue in Kansas

With the signing of HB 2097 and upon publication of the bill in the Kansas Register on May 21, 2015, the Office of the State Fire Marshal is now officially the coordinating agency in charge of the Kansas Search and Rescue response program.

Our Hazmat Division will now become the Emergency Response division, and will oversee coordination of responses to both hazardous chemical spills and structure collapse search and rescues in Kansas.

#### HISTORY

In April 2007, a group of individuals passionate about search and rescue met in Topeka to discuss the need for formalized coordination of state search and rescue response. This need for a formalized system was realized on May 4, 2007 when a devastating tornado struck Greensburg.

The Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group (KSARWG) consists of one member from each of the seven Homeland Security Regions in Kansas. These members have responsibility for coordinating search and rescue response at the regional level. Additional members include one representative each from OSFM, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas National Guard, Crisis City, Kansas Fire Rescue Training Institute, and Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association.

This working group established the mission: Improve the overall search

and rescue capability and response in the State of Kansas and beyond, thereby ensuring that responders at all levels are prepared to provide a coordinated response to any natural or man-made disaster.

Each of the seven (7) regions established a list of participating agencies and has worked with their Regional Councils to secure funding for equipment and training for each regional team. To date, approximately \$5 million has been invested in the regional teams. The teams have worked under the guidance of the KSARWG and without a parent state agency overseeing search and rescue.

The KSARWG reached out to the OSFM to see if the agency would be interested in becoming the parent agency for search and rescue. The OSFM seemed like a natural fit for KSAR, since the agency already was operating a statewide hazardous materials response program consisting of regional hazmat teams. Since reaching out to the Fire Marshal, the two groups have worked together to make this partnership a reality.

The OSFM worked on the bill this last Summer to get a bill through this session. The bill formalizes the working group to an official advisory group of the Fire Marshal's office.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Combining our Hazmat and Search & Rescue programs into one division indeed makes perfect sense. Both initiatives are made up of local fire departments and emergency responders from around the state.



Our office will sign Memorandums of Understanding with each individual department that will allow our office to reimburse the local departments for hours of the responders and their call back replacements along with expendable supplies used for each assigned response and also for training events.

We will help provide and coordinate any necessary training that the responders require to keep up their certifications and provide any new training based on changes in the best practices or new techniques in the search and rescue field.

#### TRAINING AVAILABLE

Going forward, our office will begin regularly scheduled meetings with the advisory group to work on the direction and path for Search and Rescue in Kansas. The first item of concentration will be the planning of the 2015 Kansas Technical Rescue Conference in Crisis City near Salina on October 7-9.



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# The Hazards of Chlorine Exposure

### What chlorine is

Chlorine is an element used in industry and found in some household products. It can be a poisonous gas or a liquid. Chlorine gas can be recognized by its pungent, irritating odor, which smells like bleach (the strong smell may be a warning of exposure).

Chlorine gas appears to be yellow-green in color. While not flammable, it can react explosively or form explosive compounds with other chemicals like turpentine or ammonia.

### How chlorine exposure happens

People may be exposed to chlorine through skin or eye contact, or by breathing contaminated air. People may be exposed by touching or drinking water exposed to chlorine, or by eating food contaminated with liquid chlorine.

People's risk for exposure depends on how close they are to the place where the chlorine was released. Chlorine gas is heavier than air, so it settles in low-lying areas.

### How chlorine works

The extent of poisoning caused by chlorine depends on the amount of chlorine a person is exposed to, how the person was exposed, and the length of time of the exposure.

When chlorine gas comes into contact with moist tissues such as the eyes, throat, and lungs, an acid is produced that can damage these tissues.

### Signs of chlorine exposure

During or immediately after exposure to dangerous concentrations of chlorine, the following signs and symptoms may develop:

- Coughing
- Chest tightness
- Burning sensation in the nose, throat, and eyes
- Watery eyes
- Blurred vision



- Nausea and vomiting
- Burning pain, redness, and blisters on the skin if exposed to gas
- Skin injury similar to frostbite if exposed to liquid chlorine
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath (may appear immediately if high concentrations of chlorine gas are inhaled, or may be delayed if low concentrations of chlorine gas are inhaled)
- Fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema) within 2 to 4 hours

### How to protect yourself, and what to do if exposed to chlorine

Should you find yourself exposed to chlorine, leave the area, getting to fresh air quickly.

If outdoor release, move away from the release, to the highest ground possible. If indoor release, get out of the building immediately. If you think you may have been exposed, remove your clothing, rapidly wash your entire body with soap and water, and get medical care as quickly as possible.

### Tips for handling of exposed clothing

- Remove clothing quickly, do NOT pull over head.
- Seal clothing in a plastic bag. Then double seal the first bag into a second plastic bag.
- Inform emergency or medical personnel you have sealed the clothing - do NOT handle the bags.
- If helping others - avoid touching contaminated areas, remove clothing quickly and seal.
- Wash the entire body with soap and water quickly.
- If your eyes are burning or your vision blurred, rinse your eyes with plain water for 10 to 15 minutes. (remove contact lens first, bag them and do not put them back in)
- If you wear eyeglasses, wash them thoroughly with soap and water before putting them back on.

***If you swallowed chlorine, do not induce vomiting or drink fluids, just seek immediate medical attention.***

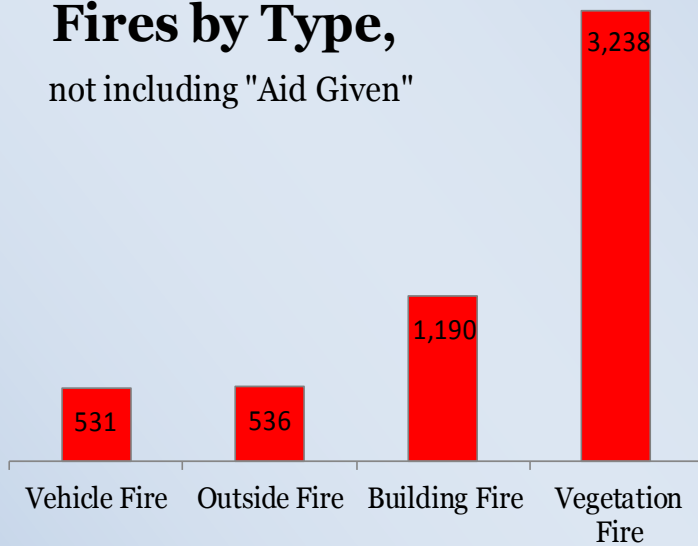


# NFIRS: First Quarter of 2015

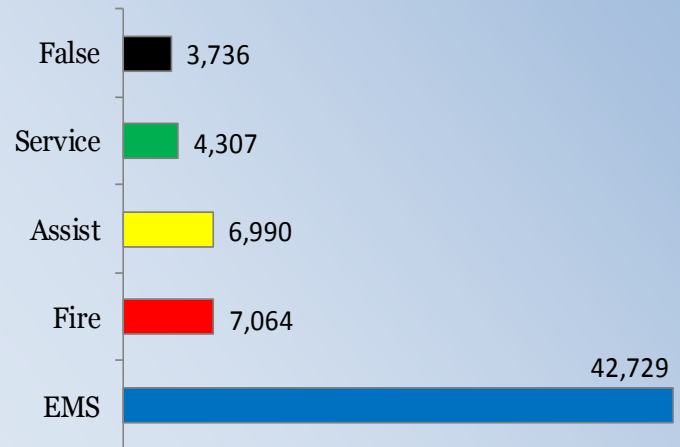
Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System stats current 5/27/2015

## Fires by Type,

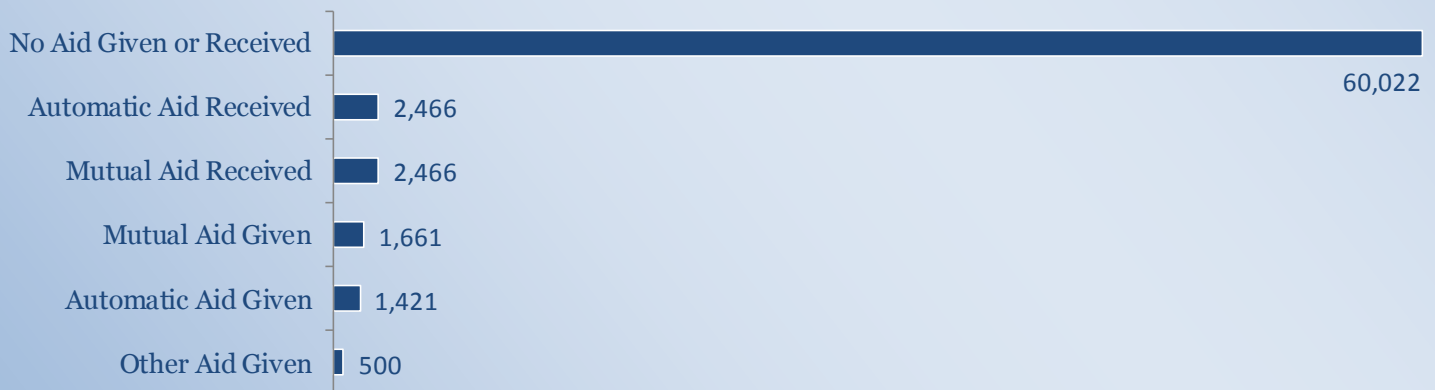
not including "Aid Given"



## Top 5 Call Types



434 departments reported a total of 67,311 calls and 139 “No Activity” reports.



12 forms classes were provided around the state from January through March. Departments interested in hosting a class can contact Sara Wood by phone at (785) 296-4294 or email at [sara.wood@ksfm.ks.gov](mailto:sara.wood@ksfm.ks.gov) to get on the calendar.

**Thank you to all the reporting fire departments!**